

On the other hand, the work seems complete, careful, and, for the most part, conservative, this last characteristic being well shown in the treatment of *Gilia*. There has been no undue slaughter of species, and there is a willingness to recognize varieties generously. Attention has been paid throughout to economic values, especially to forage plants, and to ethnobotanical information. Since descriptions of species could not be included without greatly increasing the bulk (and the price), the keys to genera are highly detailed, and the distributional notes for the species are given more minutely than usual. One notes, too, with pleasure, the restoration of the *Oxalidaceae* to the flora of Arizona. In view of the differences in length, it would be rather unfair to draw comparisons between the contributions of the collaborators, but (possibly from a sense of personal relief), attention might be drawn to Dr. Blake's key to the groups of the *Compositae*, and keys to the genera within these groups. The former is drawn up without mention of style, stigma, or nature of the receptacle. In the latter keys, style- or stigma-characters appear to be used in only three instances; indeed, only once as the primary character in the heading. This must inevitably make the utilization of these keys easier and quicker, even for professional botanists. The ultimate test for such a volume is that of *use*. The writer and some colleagues have, on several occasions, made numerous determinations of Arizona material, with highly satisfactory results. The authors have reached the standards they set for themselves.—ROBERT C. FOSTER.

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ALCHEMILLA PRATENSIS IN ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK.—A flowering plant of extreme interest and rarity in North America has been added to the flora of western New York State. The species, *Alchemilla pratensis*, F. W. Schmidt, was discovered by me, growing in a long-neglected field near Lancaster, Erie County, New York.

This plant, naturalized from Europe where it is known as "Lady's Mantle," is abundantly naturalized in Nova Scotia, and has occasionally been reported as a local plant from Maine to eastern New York.

*Alchemilla pratensis* is an attractive non-typical member of the Rose family and of unusual botanical interest. Its flowers, having no petals, are made up of a small greenish cup-shaped calyx that is mainly 4-lobed and bears only 4 stamens. A more unrose-like blossom can hardly be imagined.

A fine specimen collected by me is now growing vigorously in Williamsville, N. Y., in the garden of Professor William P. Alexander, Curator Emeritus of Adult Education, Buffalo Museum of Science.—HEATHER G. THORPE, Buffalo Museum of Science.